



1st December 2015

Newsletter 7

Dear Parents/Carers,

School is starting to feel quite 'Christmassy' with lots of rehearsals and singing practice taking place.



Christmas Tree Festival

As is tradition at Excalibur, our reception class made decorations for our contribution to the Christmas Tree festival at Wesley Place. The tree is now sat in our entrance hall and is adorned by beautiful golden decorations in celebration of our 50th year. Thank you to Mrs Rogers and her team of volunteers and, of course, the children.



Christmas cards

Children may start to bring Christmas cards in from next week, Monday 7th December. We ask that they post them in our special post box in the entrance and Santa's little helpers in Y6 will deliver them to the right classes. Children - please try to ensure that the year group and surname are on the envelopes as we do have children who share the same first names.



Hockey Tournament

We entered two teams into a hockey tournament held at the high school last week. All children played well with super team spirit and one of the teams managed to come runners-up. Well done!

Extra- curricular clubs

A reminder that next week (week beginning 7th December) is the last session for all after school clubs. We hope that the children involved have enjoyed them this term. I would like to thank the staff and friends of the school who give up their own time to run these clubs. We will, as usual, send out a letter for the Spring term clubs 'menu' when we are back in January.



Staff Development

Mrs Tomkinson has completed intermediate level safeguarding training.

Miss Taylor is currently completing an Embedding excellence in learning and teaching module.

Mr Cotterill and Mrs Ling recently attended a Special Educational Needs conference.

Mrs Rogers and I took part in an Early Years Baseline data analysis briefing.

Staffing Update

We have now completed the recruitment process for Mrs Rogers' maternity leave. I am pleased to tell you that Mrs Heather Cheadle will be joining the team in February. Mrs Cheadle is an experienced specialist in Early Years and has a wealth of knowledge and experience that she will bring to our school. To ensure a smooth transition for everyone, we have managed to arrange for Mrs Cheadle to work alongside Mrs Rogers for approximately 2 weeks before she takes over the reception class when Mrs Rogers takes her leave. I am sure that you will join me in welcoming Mrs Cheadle to our school.

Christmas Fair

It is Friends of Excalibur's Christmas Fair this Friday. The fun starts from 5pm and ends at 7pm. As always we hope that you are able to join the school and support the F.O.E – I know the children always look forward to this event. If you can spare half an hour to help out on a stall, set up or help clear away at the end then please send in your slip or let the office know. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

In January there will be a census to identify the number of children in school who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding. This determines the school's income for Pupil Premium from April 2016 to March 2017. This funding is allocated against a number of criteria, one of which is eligibility for Income Related Free School Meals. This is not the same as Universal Free School Meals which are currently available for all children in Reception and Key Stage One. Pupil Premium funding can be used by the school in a variety of ways to support and enrich children's education. This can include free school trips, additional support through nurture, help with buying school uniform, or any other educational or additional support that the children need.

An initiative called Ever 6 means that children who are eligible for Income Related Free School Meals continue to receive Pupil Premium funding for six years from the initial entitlement even if the parents' financial situation changes and they would no longer be eligible. This means that the children can continue to benefit from the additional funding throughout their primary education and possibly into high school. Please see Mrs Hilditch in the office or visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/fsm or call 0300 123 5012 to see if you are eligible to apply for Income Related Free School meals.

And finally...

As always, should you have any queries or concerns please come in and see us.



With best wishes,

Mrs Lise Houldsworth
Headteacher

Diary Dates

This is a list of dates currently in the school diary. You can also use the school calendar on our website which is updated as dates are set.

4-12-15 FOE Christmas Fair 5.00-7.00pm
9-12-15 Christmas Dinner
9-12-15 Governors meeting – Teaching & Learning 5.30pm
11-12-15 Infants Christmas celebration
15-12-15 Juniors Christmas performance – details to follow
16-12-15 Juniors visit to South Cheshire College Centre Stage Theatre – Alice in Wonderland
16-12-15 Full governors meeting 5.30pm
18-12-15 Y5/6 Christmas party
21-12-15 Infants Christmas party Y3/4 Christmas party
22-12-15 School closes for Christmas

06-01-16 School opens
06-01-16 Reception class – Love Music Trust IN – details to follow
15-01-16 Y2/3 History workshops IN – details to follow
22-01-16 F.O.E movie night
05-02-16 Y5 vocal performance @ St Mary's – details to follow
10-02-16 Y4,5,6 Be cyberwise workshops – details to follow
10-02-16 Governors meeting – community 5.30pm
12-02-16 School closes for half term

22-02-16 School opens
02-03-16 Governors meeting – strategic leadership 5.30pm
16-03-16 Governors meeting – teaching and learning 5.30pm
22-03-16 Y3 perform @ Victoria Hall – details to follow
23-03-16 Easter service @ St.Mary's – details to follow
23-03-16 Full governors meeting 5pm
24-03-16 School closes for Easter